Volume 31, No. 7 July 1999

Carolina country

The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

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What's good for power lines is good for butterflies — pages 14-17

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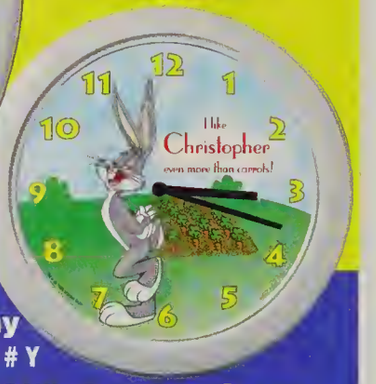

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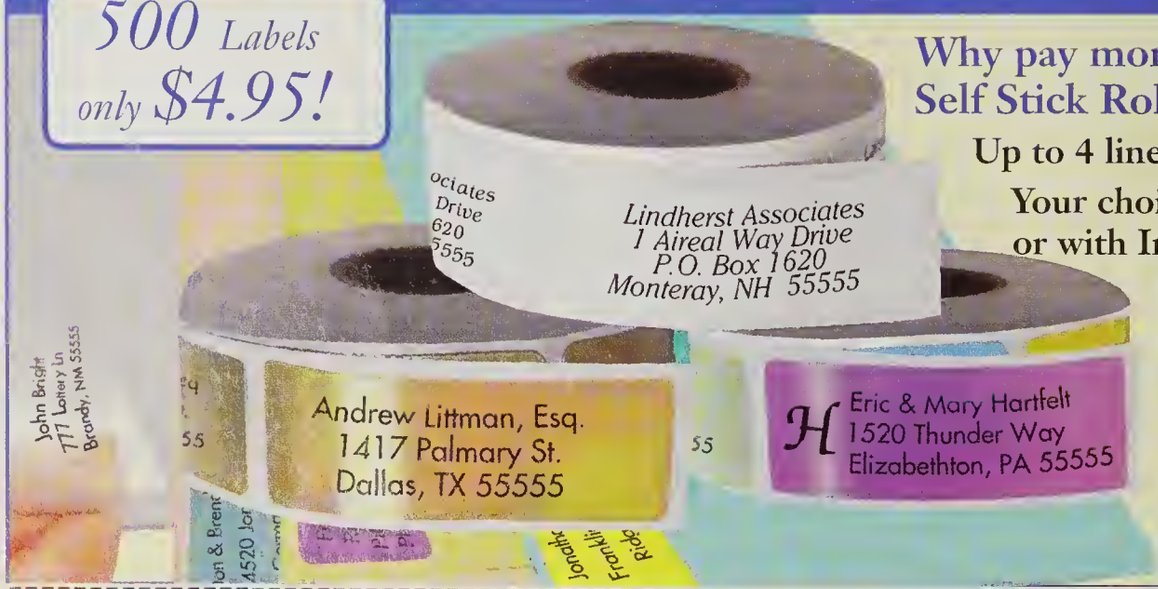

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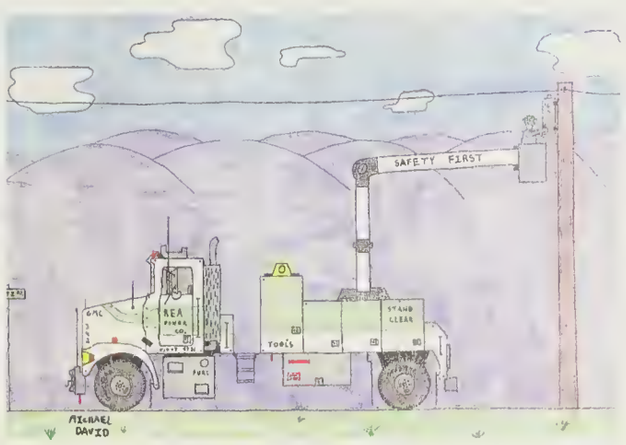
Artwork by Michael David Gossett, 18, of Marion. Michael works third shift at WalMart. He doesn't have much time for drawing, but when he does, he's pretty good. His family is on Rutherford EMC's service lines.



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We can improve health care in rural communities

By Congressman Mike McIntyre

I have always appreciated the dire need for strong health care and medical services in the Carolina countryside. My home county, Robeson County, opened the first rural health department in America in 1912. My great uncle was a surgeon, and my father was an eye doctor.

Mike McIntyre

Thus, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to fight for good health care in rural America in my new position as co-chairman of the Rural Health Care Coalition. This caucus has 146 members of Congress, and is one of the most active legislative groups on Capitol Hill.

Health care is a big topic in Washington these days, and I want to make sure that health care in rural areas is not left out of the national discussion. Like agriculture, education and Social Security, this is a front-burner issue.

This spring, as co-chairman of the Rural Health Care Coalition, I helped introduce the Triple-A Rural Health Improvement Act, HR 1344. The three A's represent the most crucial problems facing rural communities today: accessibility, affordability and accountability. The bill addresses these areas of concern by promoting access to health care services in rural areas under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as well as the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, the legislation addresses telemedicine and Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Southeastern North Carolina will benefit in a variety of ways under the Triple-A Rural Health Improvement Act. The Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 has forced hospitals across the state to re-evaluate their financial positions and operating procedures, while continuing to brace for additional provisions which will lower reimbursement rates. This bill offers several provisions which attempt to protect health care facilities in rural communities from closing their doors. Specific provisions would:

- Repeal the Hospital Transfer Penalty Act, which imposes financial penalties on hospitals that transfer Medicare patients to a post-acute setting prior to the expiration of the diagnosis-related group payment period.
- Allow a hospital that closed or downsized to a clinic to reopen as or convert to a Critical Access Hospital. This will help to ensure that rural communities continue to have access to health care services.
- Encourage providers to continue practicing in or relocating to rural areas. Section 121 increases from 85 to 100 percent of the lesser of costs or charges the Medicare payments to physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists in underserved rural areas. It also permits direct payments to these providers.
- Helps retain health care professionals by exempting from federal taxes any amounts they receive under the tuition and related expenses portion of the National Health Service Corps scholarship program.
- Permits Medicare to reimburse telemedicine care for procedures that Medicare already covers.
- Allows Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units to issue tax-exempt bonds for revenue purposes.

The goal of the Triple-A Rural Health Improvement Act is to alleviate the strains on health care throughout rural America. By repealing or eliminating detrimental provisions of the Balanced Budget Act and providing greater incentives for health care professionals to practice in underserved communities, we can improve health acre services by ensuring accessibility, affordability and accountability.

Mike McIntyre is a Congressman representing the 7th Congressional District. He can be reached at 1605 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2731. Fax: (202) 225-5773. E-mail: CongMcIntyre@mail.house.gov (Include your full name, mailing address and E-mail address in all correspondence.) He also has offices in Lumberton, Fayetteville and Wilmington.

We got mail!

From the e-mail inbox came the following.

Sometimes it's the familiar things that surprise us the most. I have been reading Carolina Country for almost 20 years now, but as I read the June 1999 issue I was struck by the fact that this magazine is a truly wonderful reflection of what is so important to so many EMC members.

The attention to the real people, places and things— as well as the basic ideals— so many Carolinians hold dear is not overlooked by this reader. As a third generation EMC (Four County) member, I applaud you and your staff for your commitment to local co-op members.

Sunday McIntyre Allen
Elizabethtown

Just visited your web site for first time & want to compliment you on its content & organization. I will "save" the site & refer to it often. Thanks for the service.

Myrna Marble

See our Web site at www.ncemcs.com. *for fun features, recipes, things to do, and information about places to go.*

Kennels Beach at 99

Every July 4, the Kennels Beach Improvement Committee sponsors a celebration to raise funds for community improvement. This year's will be extra special because it has been 99 years since Kennels Beach was developed on the Neuse River near Arapahoe in in Pamlico County. Next year is the big anniversary.

We start off with ham biscuits and a yard sale, games and community fellowship. Then comes the parade, an auction, a community picnic and finally the fireworks. Come join us this year.

Ann C. McConnell
Kennels Beach

The 1998 first-prize winning float, "The Statue of Liberty," by the Champion children, Gray and his sister Blaire, and their cousin Megan as Miss Liberty.

Light Lines

by Donna Hardy

Hey, they say this is one of the best places for butterflies? Where are they?

Mirror image

Doc is right-handed

The photo of Doc Watson that appeared on the June Carolina Country cover shows him playing the guitar left-handed, even though Doc is one of the greatest right-handed pickers who ever lived. We flopped the photo so you could see how he would look in a mirror.

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Research finds no link between EMF exposure and childhood leukemia

Canadian researchers recently concluded that there is no clear connection between exposure to electric magnetic fields (EMFs) and the risk of childhood leukemia. The report issued by the British Columbia Cancer Agency was based on a 10-year study.

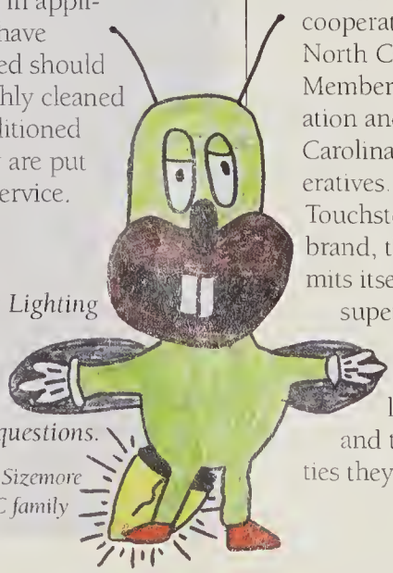
The agency said its study is the first to measure the personal EMF exposure of children. Measurements were made in fields that affected 399 leukemia-diagnosed children and 399 with no leukemia in a control group. Measurements took place at nearby power lines as well as fields in and around the subjects' homes. Children with leukemia and those without had similar EMF exposures.

A major U.S. study of the effects of EMF exposure is due to report this year.

Safety Q & A

Q: Will my refrigerator work after it has been standing in a flood?

A: Before re-entering immediately after the flood, make sure electrical appliance power is shut off so you can inspect the area for damaged wires or plugs. Then, all electric motors in appliances that have been flooded should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service.



Look for Mr. Lighting Bug. He'll provide you answers to your safety questions.

Art by Garrett Sizemore Randolph EMC family

4th graders and trucks

Fourth graders from Alexander County public schools learned about careers, job responsibilities, a good work ethic and the importance of education in the work world during "Truck Day" this spring. Representing an EnergyUnited bucket truck were linemen Sandy Fagan and Max Barlowe of the co-op's Taylorsville District.

Terry Labonte wins Touchstone Energy 300 in close finish

Terry Labonte's win in the April 24 Touchstone Energy 300 at Talladega Superspeedway was the closest finish of the NASCAR Busch Series Grand National Division's 18-year history.

Labonte's final margin of victory over last year's winner Joe Nemechek was listed as .002-second. Any closer, and it would've been a dead-even tie. Jeff Purvis held on to finish third, followed by Matt Kenseth and Lyndon Amick in the Top 5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., Larry Pearson, Casey Atwood, Randy LaJoie and David Green rounded out the Top 10. It took Labonte 1 hour, 59 minutes and 36 seconds to complete the event at an average speed of 150.792 mph.

Touchstone Energy is a nationwide alliance of consumer-owned cooperatives, including North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and many of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. Endorsing the Touchstone Energy brand, the alliance commits itself to providing superior service at affordable rates to consumers, large and small, and to the communities they serve.

Terry Labonte (red uniform) in Victory Lane.

Hurricane Safety Tip

Window film can serve a purpose in a hurricane, too

3M says recent tests show that its security window film systems help mitigate damage to interiors during windstorms. The window film helps keep glass together and in place when windows are shattered by debris and wind.

Window film is intended to increase energy efficiency by blocking the sun's heat. It also can reduce fading of interior furnishings by filtering out UV rays. The Scotchshield™ Ultra window film is available in a wide range of tints and colors.

To demonstrate the high performance of its window film systems under extreme stress such as hurricanes, 3M hired an independent test laboratory to evaluate the systems. The tests subjected windows with the 3M Scotchshield Ultra Security window film system to three separate impacts from 10 2-gram steel balls, which were cannon-shot at speeds of 130 feet per second. Then the windows were subjected to wind cycles resembling the wind pressures typical of severe windstorms. In these tests, the glass was held in the frame, and there was no penetration through the window film.

To learn more about how 3M window films can help protect people and property, call 3M at (800) 480-1704.

An electric bicycle for hills

The U.S. Pro-Drive electric bicycle by Currie Technologies can run about 20 miles on flat terrain under a single 6-to 8-hour charge. The bike can handle normal trails as well as paved paths and streets.

The two 12-volt batteries can be partially recharged at any time without overcharging. Batteries are quick-charged in 2 or 3 hours. They add about 26 pounds to the weight of the bike. The electric propulsion is most noticeable on hills and when starting from a stop. The propulsion capability is 17 to 18 miles per hour. The throttle is on the handle bar.

You can pedal this bike normally, too. The rear wheel spins freely when riding faster than the motor.

U.S. Pro-Drive bikes cost about $1,000. The North Carolina dealer is Watts Solar Electnc, 1034 North Road St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909. Phone: (252) 338-2515. Currie Technologies is at (800) 268-8596.

The Helms handshake

More than 150 electric cooperative directors and managers visited U.S. Congressmen and Senators in early May to discuss issues affecting their cooperatives and communities. Shown here is Sen. Jesse Helms greeting Zach Brecheisen, son of Piedmont EMC General Manager Randy Brecheisen.

Survey supports states' role in restructuring

A study conducted on behalf of the Electric Consumers Alliance shows that nearly 75 percent of Americans believe states, not the federal government, would do a better job of managing competition.

And a number of consumers expressed interest in forming and joining electricity "buying groups" that would be operated along the lines of co-ops. The finding validates a continuing trend backed by previous surveys that shows strong support for the cooperative form of business.

The "National Electric Deregulation Study" was conducted for the alliance by Market Strategies Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based consulting company. The alliance is an Indianapolis-based coalition of consumer organizations that has received support from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Among the survey's findings:

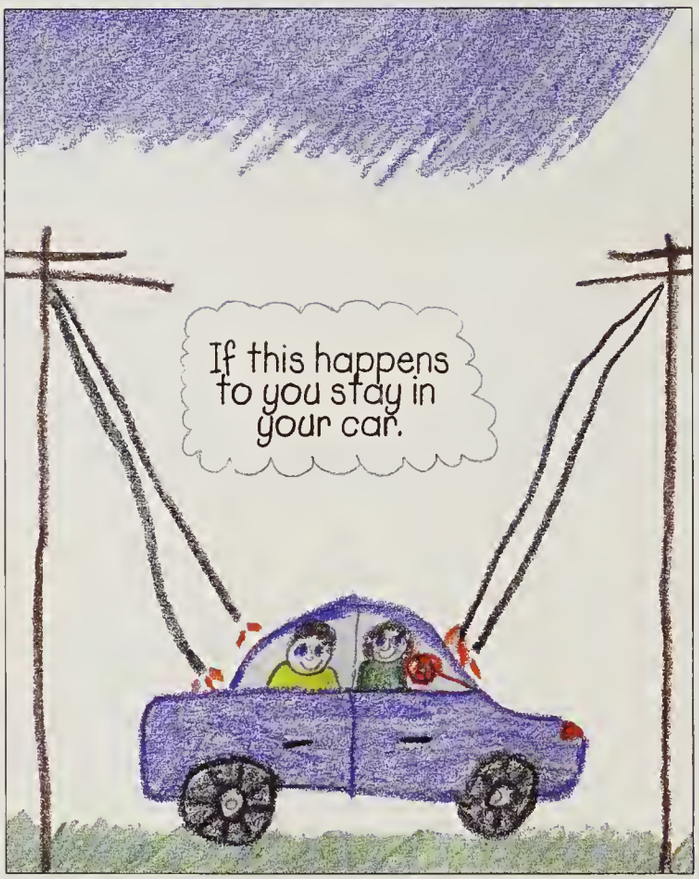
- A number of consumers are interested in forming and joining electricity "buying groups" under a voluntary, non-profit electric rate negotiating organization;
- Consumers are guardedly optimistic about the potential benefits of electric competition, but want to choose electricity on their own terms;
- Nearly half of the U.S. population now has some knowledge and awareness of electric utility restructuring issues;
- The satisfaction level for current utilities among consumers remains high, and nearly half of all consumers would call their utility first with any questions about restructuring;
- 87 percent of respondents said that current utilities should be allowed to sell electricity to their current customers; and
- Consumers are concerned about "slamming" and other marketing issues that would switch them to another electric company or have other services added to their bills without their consent.

-- Mike Sorohan, Electric Co-op TODAY

nothing
could be finer

Safe and Sound

Safety lessons you'll never forget



Art by Kristen Randall, 8, Pee Dee EMC

Safety is one thing we take very seriously as electric cooperative employees. Here at the state office in Raleigh we attend monthly meetings devoted to one safety topic or another: using fire extinguishers, recognizing electrical hazards, reporting accidents, and some especially useful in this region, such as defensive driving and dealing with stress.

The very first program North Carolina's electric cooperatives arranged on a statewide basis was a job training and safety program in 1943. The JT&S, as we know it, today is one of the most respected among all electric utilities nationally. You can assure yourself that not only the right-of-way and line crews at your cooperative are highly trained to work safely, but so are the office employees.

Sometimes the safety lessons you learn best come the hard way. Here are some that you told us you will never forget. They probably will help the rest of us, too.

Next month we'll publish your stories about "the finest school teacher I ever knew." (Deadline was June 15.) For the year's remaining themes, see page 12.

-- MG

No joke

A number of years ago my wife and I were remodeling an older home. I replaced all the wiring in the house, and Teresa, with her fear of electrical hazards, was vigilant in checking that I worked with the power off. Occasionally, I would rationalize certain tasks as not worth the trip to the circuit breaker in the basement. I figured my technical expertise justified cutting corners. Several times, with a superior air, I would explain why I actually wasn't grounded or why the neutral wire had zero potential.

One day while she was painting the front porch, I was tracing a circuit that controlled the outdoor lighting. As a joke, I flicked the switch on and off quickly while giving a yelp.

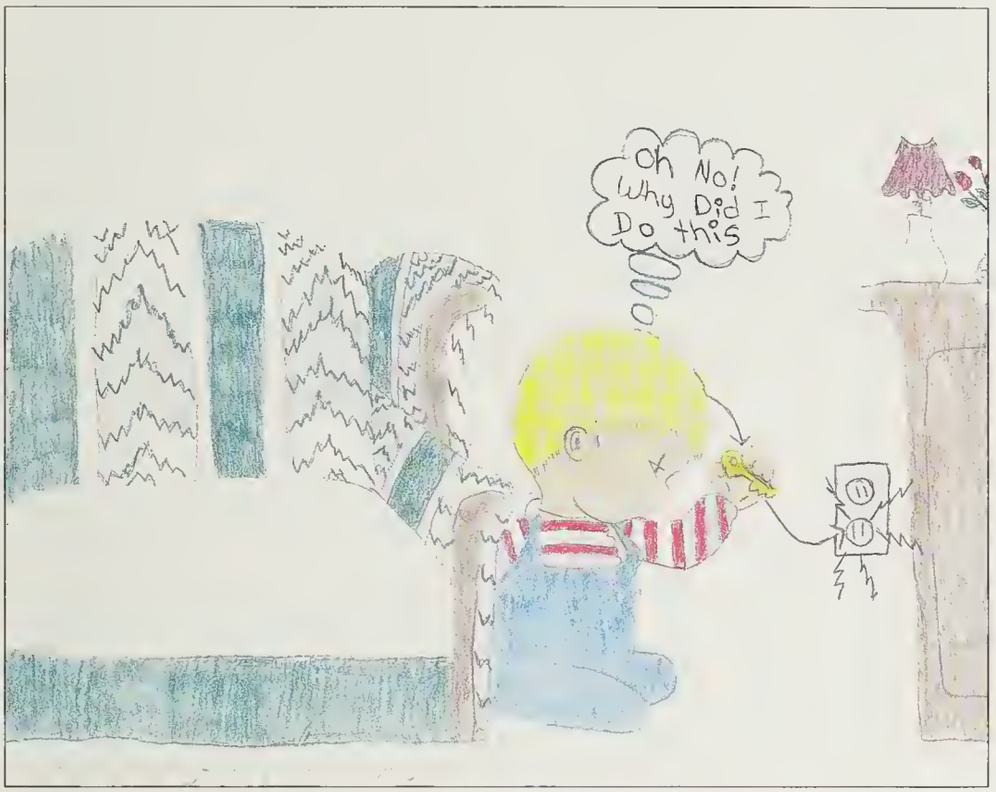
She came dashing around the corner terrified. When she saw I was just laughing, she burst into tears.

Several days later, I saw an electrical safety video at my plant. It was edited from a collection of home videos showing actual fatal and near fatal incidents. They included people surveying storm damage at their homes and coming in contact with downed power lines, a teenage girl spooked by the camera into dropping her hairdryer into the sink, and a college student turning on his shop vacuum on a wet driveway. One second they were involved in routine activities, and the next unconsciousness.

My wife's tears haunted me during the entire presentation. I came home that evening and immediately apologized to her. I promised to never take another shortcut with electricity again.

Even more importantly, the video exposed the false belief that I was invulnerable. My perspective on all safety rules changed. Instead of inconvenient nuisances they became protective boundaries. I suffer much less from even minor mishaps at home because, following those rules really guards you from many bumps and slips as well as potentially saving your life.

Andrew Thompson
Morganton
Rutherford EMC member



Art by Cynthia Burgos, 11, Surry-Yadkin EMC

First-time smoker

When I was nine years old, it was my job to empty all ashtrays. I received 10 cents a week from my parents for this little chore. My father also had been teaching me, against my mother's wishes, to light the gas oven on the cook stove.

One day I decided to try to smoke. I lit one of my father's cigarette butts. Well, I thought I was blinded forever. I burnt all my eyelashes, and my eyes hurt so bad. But I didn't tell my parents, because I knew I would be punished.

My parents and I had this special time together on Saturday mornings. We would all three lie on the bed and talk and laugh for hours. This time, my mother was lying on her stomach and I was lying beside her on my back. All of a sudden she turned to my father and screamed, "I told you not to let this child light that oven! Now look! All her eyelashes are gone!"

I learned several lessons here. I learned that eyelashes do not always grow back. I learned to keep your mouth shut, if you aren't asked questions. And most of all, I learned that smoking can be dangerous. Fifty-six years later, I still don't smoke.

Ona B. Deane
High Point

Two boys in a shopping cart

I hope what I'm going to tell you will come to mind the next time you put a child in a shopping cart.

A few months ago I had both my grandsons in a shopping cart. Their ages are 2 and 4. The older one was buckled in the cart only because the younger came with us after we arrived at the store. The younger one sat in the cart to keep up with his brother.

My mind was on groceries. I forgot for a second the second boy was there. He was standing as I started to push the cart. I heard him laugh and looked in time to see him tumble backward out of the cart. No matter what anyone says, I know he was hurt badly. He lost his breath, his eyes didn't focus right, his speech was slurred and his motor skills were slow. He threw up a lot on the way to the hospital. Once he got there, you'd never know anything happened. He was checked out and released.

I thank God what could have been a tragic event turned out to be a valuable lesson. There is a very real danger in putting a child in a shopping cart. I couldn't live with myself if my careless action had caused my grandson to lose his life. I'm sure if the same thing happened to you, you would feel the same.

Sandra Bullard
Roseboro
South River EMC member

The magnum blast

My brother and I occasionally dabbled in a dangerous practice for two teenage boys of reloading our own shotgun ammo for hunting.

It seems that my brother had been reading about how magnum loads could bring down game at a greater distance, so he decided to engineer his very own magnum load. Well, my brother is younger than I, and he decided this would be a top-secret project.

The production of the superior load went off without a hitch. Then the time had come to test his creation. So he retrieved our granddad's old single barrel 12-gauge shotgun, and without further hesitation he ventured out into the yard, placed his target and took aim. Then the magnum blast occurred.

The double-loaded shell was too much for the old gun and blew it into several pieces. My brother's large insulated jacket was all that prevented his arm from being severely injured; its sleeve was nearly ripped off from the blast. His face was peppered with the burning powder evident by the outline left by his eyeglasses. He was shocked and shaken, but luckily not harmed. He learned a valuable lesson.

Billy Howerton
Rich Square
Roanoke Electric Cooperative member

Bull headed

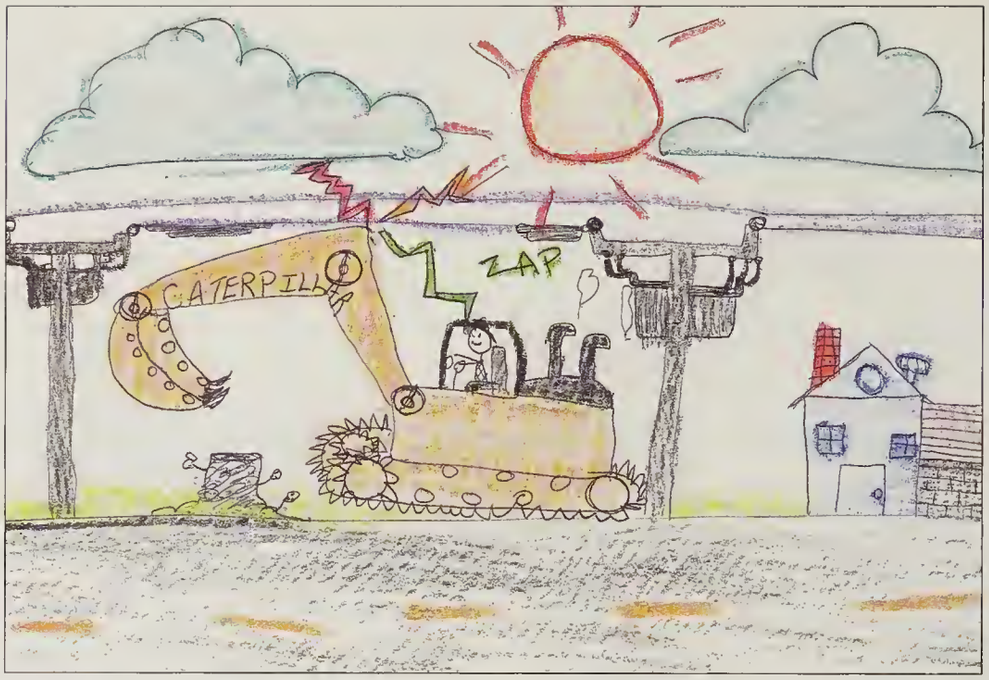
When I was 5 years old, and my brother 6, there came a visitor to our small farm. Our visitor was a big, black bull. All he did was stand out in the middle of the pasture. My brother just couldn't take this, so he talked me into going out a little ways.

The first thing he did was to pick up a rock and hit the bull. The bull didn't even look at us, so we both got to throwing rocks. It didn't take long for that bull to come after us. I've never run so hard in my life. I kept looking over my shoulder to see the bull, and boy was he getting close.

The next thing I knew I was lying flat on my back on the ground. The bull was standing over me. My brother took me by the feet and dragged me under the fence. I learned what it means to be "clothes-lined." The fence had caught me under the chin, and down I went!

I learned two things: Don't make a bull mad, and look where you're going.

Jenneal Ingram
Newton Grove
South River EMC member



"Know the height of your machine's reach. This picture illustrates the danger of not watching out for overhead lines."

Art by Angel Caudle, 12, Surry Yadkin EMC

This is not a dream

After the first several years on my own as a new graduate nurse at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, I had finally saved enough money to move into a luxurious new apartment. I could hardly wait to move out of my college apartment complex and enjoy a new home with peace and quiet. I was really looking forward to living somewhere no one else had lived before, with fresh paint and unstained carpets. The thought of a new swimming pool right outside my door in the 95 degree-plus summer temperatures was like paradise to me.

During my last day in my old apartment, I was too excited to sleep, even after 12 hours on night duty in the critical care unit. I stayed up all day packing, imagining where I would put my things in my new apartment. I finished packing around 8 that night. I fell exhausted into bed around 9.

One hour later, I thought I was dreaming as I awoke to the shrill sound of the one smoke detector outside my upstairs bedroom. It took me a few seconds to realize my bedroom was full of smoke. I felt myself begin to panic, totally disoriented from exhaustion, with the screaming of the alarm in my ears. Your first thought is "I've got to get out NOW!" I half fell down my stairs toward the front door. I now understood why people panic in fires, unable to find their way out of their own home.

Fortunately, I saw no fire, just big clouds of electrical-smelling smoke coming from my furnace. I was proud of myself that I kept my head enough to cut the furnace off and immediately began opening doors and windows. Boy, was I glad to get that first whiff of 25-degree fresh, clean air!

The blower on my furnace had shorted out, causing the furnace to become superheated with no way to cool down. My building superintendent said I was very smart to have had a smoke detector.

I now own a home, which has four smoke detectors. I check them every four months for the telltale "chirp." Smoke detectors do save lives. One saved mine.

Caroline Gardner, RN
Macclesfield
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC member

Out on Highway 211

As a mechanic, sometimes I accept miscellaneous items, depending on their potential value, in lieu of monetary payment. That's how I became the proud owner of a 1971 LTD Country Squire wagon.

It hadn't been cranked in years, but surprisingly, it only needed a minor engine tune-up, plus a little brake work, and it was ready to ride. I tagged it, insured it and used it constantly.

I drove it that fateful morning when a customer called, saying he was stranded out on Highway 211, asking if I could come and help. I went and discovered that the battery I'd warned him about a few weeks before had finally died.

After telling him not to touch the gas or the gearshift, I hooked up a set of jumper cables and asked him to crank it up. When the engine fired, I reminded him not to touch the gas or gearshift, then reached to undo the cables.

Suddenly, the engine revved and I found myself trapped between the two vehicles. My right knee took most of the impact, but fortunately, it wound up cradled in the curve between the bumper and the rubber bumper guard; therefore, it didn't get damaged as much as it could have. There was just one bone broken, instead of many.

I learned two safety lessons and one major truth about life that day: The first lesson was never try to fix someone's car parked on the side of the road. The second, and most important, was never to trust your life in someone's else's hands, no matter how well you think you know that person.

The truth is that God sends us all kinds of angels, and I pray I'll always remember to thank Him for each and every one, even the ones that come clothed in rubber and steel.

Wendell P. Owenby
West End
Pee Dee EMC

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4. Include your name, mailing address, electric co-op, and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. *(We will not return others.)*
6. We pay $50 for each submission published in this series.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

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Protecting Poles and Lines

How electric cooperatives maintain rights-of-way

By Kim Whorton Tripp

Picture a tree next to a power line. If the wind blows hard or ice builds up on a limb, the tree could bring down that power line. The electricity goes out. A safety hazard lies on the ground.

Picture a child or anyone else climbing that tree. If they touch the power line, they get electrocuted.

If you ever wonder why your electric cooperative trims trees, cuts brush or applies herbicides near poles and lines, you'll soon learn that it's far more dangerous and costly if they don't.

The poles and lines of North Carolina's electric cooperatives run through some of the roughest, toughest terrain in the state. From French Broad EMC in the mountains to Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative on the Outer Banks and every region in between, the state's cooperatives have their work cut out for them to ensure that power runs without interruption.

Any electric utility must maintain the land beneath power lines on a regular basis. The legal right that utilities have to go on land for system maintenance purposes is called a right-of-way or ROW. Cooperatives either have their own employees conduct the maintenance or they hire qualified contract crews.

Trees beneath or beside power lines can create disruptions in electric service as well as present a variety of safety hazards. If wind, ice and snow bring down trees and limbs on power lines, tangled brush can prevent crews from quickly and safely getting into ROW areas to restore power.

Each co-op in the state has its own way of keeping its ROWs clear and safe. In general terms here's how it works. There are three main types of ROW management: mechanical, manual and herbicides. Mechanical methods include tree felling and mowing. Manual methods refer to tree pruning. Depending on the area, co-ops may use a heavy duty mower to mow down small trees and shrubs. They may cut down trees that hang perilously near power lines, or a dead tree that might endanger the power line. They may prune trees in your yard that could come into contact with the power line. Mechanical clearing is usually the first stage of the ROW maintenance process. But the need for this type of invasive management is becoming less and less frequent, because new herbicidal technologies help keep tree growth down while allowing wildflowers and other herbaceous growth to flourish.

Herbicide spraying is currently done one of two ways: low-volume, high-pressure spraying or backpack spraying. Most

A right-of-way in full bloom on Randolph EMC's lines in Asheboro. (Photo by Dave Rowe)

co-ops use the backpack method in neighborhoods to keep the herbicide distribution selective and to keep the herbicide from drifting. Each co-op uses only trained and licensed personnel to apply herbicides.

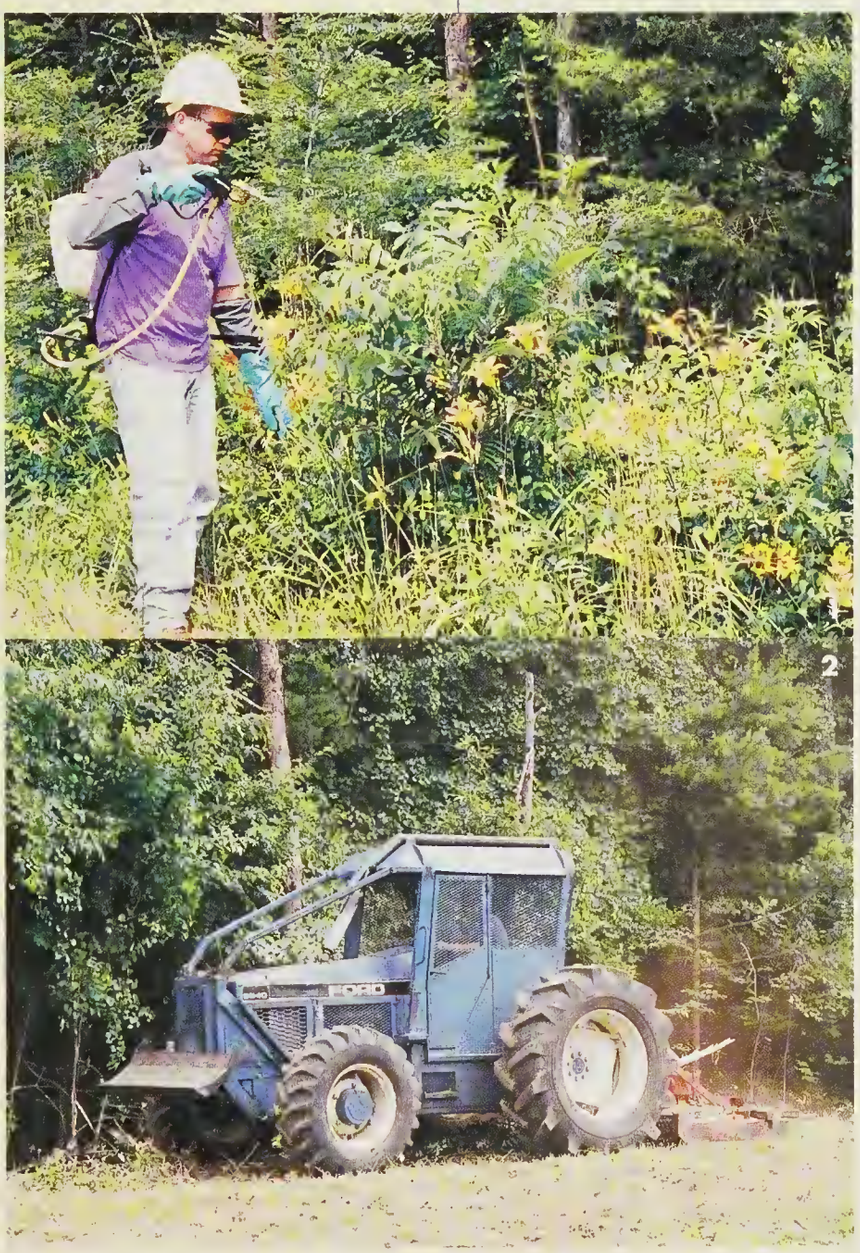
Sprouts grow back from the tree roots after having been mechanically cut. Crews walk through these ROW areas and apply an herbicide droplet mixture directly to the tree sprouts, so only those trees are controlled. This leaves low-growing plant growth that stops soil erosion and is good for the environment. Herbicides improve the land by enabling co-ops to control only the undesirable species of vegetation, while leaving those species essential for wildlife habitat.

All utilities have been using the increasingly popular herbicides for ROW management over the last few years. Herbicide applications save money, are safe for the environment, and even serve to protect wildlife habitats in most cases. Professor Pete Bromley, a wildlife biologist and department Extension leader in zoology at North Carolina State University, served as the principal investigator on a ROW management research project for Carolina Power and Light Company. Through the course of his research, Dr. Bromley found that when comparing alternative methods of ROW management — tilling up the soil, mowing it down or using selective herbicide application — herbicide application scored highest.

"If you just want to be rid of the hardwoods that might affect power lines like sweet gums, willows, red maples or pine trees, we found that in most cases selective herbicide application costs about 50 percent less than traditional mowing or bushhogging," Dr. Bromley said.

When working with farmers in eastern North Carolina, Dr. Bromley has seen excellent results from the selective herbicide treatment with regard to wildlife.

"On one farm, after using the selective herbicide method to create a field border of low-growing vegetation, we found that there were one hundred percent more quail than before," Bromley said. "The selective herbicide system leaves blackberries and dewberries and other fruit vegetation that wildlife use for nesting, for cover from predators and for food. These plants are left when you use selective application of herbicides. Plant diversity may even be enhanced using this method, because you're doing away with the trees that, when grown, shade out everything else. If your interest is enhancing and protecting wildlife, this is the way to go."



1. EnergyUnited crews use backpack sprayers to selectively target unwanted vegetation.
2. Rutherford EMC uses heavy duty rotary mowers to keep right-of-ways clear.
(Photo by Jonathan Pitman)

Many people worry about the side effects of herbicide use in their yards and neighborhoods. The root of this fear comes from our knowledge of such chemicals as Agent Orange or DDT. But Dr. Bromley stresses that not all herbicides are created equal.

"People fear herbicides for good reasons," Dr. Bromley said. "Mankind has had a history of problems with complex chemicals in the ground and air. But from the toxicology that we know and with the types of herbicides that we use, we know of no adverse effects of the use of herbicides to people or animals. These herbicides are designed solely to affect plants."

Consumers can get a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from their local cooperative if they are interested in knowing what herbicides their co-op uses. Most co-ops use a mix of water and an herbicide similar to RoundUp®, except that the herbicides co-ops use are more selective, targeting the enzymes of only those plants that are considered undesirable.

All herbicides used by co-ops are registered with and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Preserving the landscape

"Our goal in managing our right-of-ways is to make a positive impact on the land," said Jimmy Brown, director of right-of-way for EnergyUnited in Statesville. "This means that we are implementing vegetation control methods which are the best for our wildlife, our members and landowners."

EnergyUnited is a member of Project Habitat, a wildlife enhancement program for electric utility companies and wildlife organizations dedicated to promoting wildlife along transmission and distribution ROWs. Project Habitat is supported by the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Buckmasters and the Butterfly Lovers International.

Bobby Maddrey, director of land management programs for the National Wild Turkey Federation, said that the Project Habitat program is an excellent method for utilities to manage their ROWs to enhance wildlife habitat and bio-diversity.

"Mowing has been the traditional method of maintaining the land beneath power lines," Maddrey said. "However, mowing is a

non-selective and expensive method of controlling vegetation. The new generation of herbicides used in Project Habitat control and remove trees and other brushy growth. The remaining plants are able to establish themselves and provide food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife species."

Maintenance cycles

The cycle of spraying ROWs with herbicides is different for each co-op, but generally runs from spring through the fall.

"We start around mid-May and run to mid-October," said Ed Wheeler, right-of-way foreman for Wake EMC. "We don't start until everything's mature, and then we stop before the first frost."

Two years ago, Wake EMC began using herbicides on ROWs that had already been mowed as part of their ROW maintenance program. "We decided to begin using herbicides as part of our right-of-way program to help reduce costs," said Phil Price, manager of operations for Wake EMC. As a result, Wake EMC finds itself with the best ROW conditions on its system in 10 years.

As scientists like Dr. Bromley continue their research to find the safest most cost-effective way to maintain clear ROWs, North Carolina's co-ops are finding that herbicide spraying is proving to be a great low-cost, low-impact resource to supplement mechanical clearing.

Cutting close to home

ROW management can sometimes be a thorny issue for co-op members who don't want the co-op to cut the trees in their yard, no matter their proximity to the power lines. If you have a lovely, old tree in your yard, you may have reservations about trimming it. But through common sense and compromise, the co-ops have learned that it is possible to have clear ROWs and happy members, too.

Most co-ops have programs to replace trees that need to be felled to maintain the ROW. Often, the co-op will even plant a new tree for you. Dogwoods, Bradford pears and crepe myrtles are some species that are generally provided as replacement trees.

"This is a service that we have long provided to our members," said Al Hill, line superintendent for Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative in Morehead City. "Sometimes a person might not want to let go of a tree that's been around for years. But we've found that once we replace the tree for them with another tree of their choice, they end up happier than they were before. And that's the way we like it."

In some cases, property owners request that trees on their property be "rounded over" to maintain their aesthetic value and general appearance. Co-ops generally avoid this practice whenever possible because it can be unhealthy for the tree. The "rounded over" technique can cause stress in the tree because it makes the tree's root system larger than its crown. This condition promotes decay and may eventually kill the tree. Round overs also promote the same type of tree growth that makes it necessary to perform the ROW clearance, which means additional trimming would probably be needed in the future.

According to Jimmy Brown at EnergyUnited, the best kind of trimming is directional or natural trimming. This involves trimming a tree at the trunk or cutting laterals (cutting above the point where a branch forks), which enables the tree to maintain some natural shape and grow away from the power line. "This technique also causes the tree to grow at a slower pace, allowing more time between trimmings," Brown said.

EnergyUnited in Statesville employs a new technology called Tree Growth Regulators (TGRs) to help slow down tree trimming cycles. TGRs are specially designed compounds that, when applied to a tree, control its growth, allowing the tree to grow slowly and require less trimming. TGRs slow the tree's growth without harming it. TGRs are generally used for trees under main distribution lines or transmission lines.

What you should remember

When it comes to managing ROWs there are several things you should remember. If you have a tree that comes into contact with power lines, do not attempt to remove the tree yourself. Call your electric cooperative for assistance. Always look up before planting a tree to make sure you're not creating a problem for yourself down the road. If you do choose to plant beneath a power line, be sure that you plant low-growing plants.

If you have any questions regarding your cooperative's ROW maintenance program, please contact your local office.

3. Applying herbicide treatments to cut stumps can keep them from leafing out again in the spring.
4. EnergyUnited in Statesville is a proud member of Project Habitat. Pictured here is Huey Elders, right-of-way facilitator.
5. North Carolina's electric cooperative's maintain some of the most rugged terrain in the state, such as this hillside in Blue Ridge Electric's service territory.

Butterflies ♥ Utility Rights-of-Way

By Elizabeth Hunter

Alex Netherton remembers the day, a few years ago, when he was teaching a class on butterflies at Green River Preserve near Cedar Mountain.

"We went to woods and fields and only found two or three butterfly species in each place. I decided to take us to a power line cut," he says, "and it was like something out of a fantasy movie. Butterflies were everywhere." Within 45 minutes, Netherton had netted and released 23 butterfly species.

What surprised Netherton that day wouldn't surprise him or other butterfly fanciers now. "Read any book on butterfly watching and you'll see references to power line rights-of-way," says Harry LeGrand, a zoologist with the state Natural Heritage Program and compiler of a huge on-line resource on the state's butterfly population. LeGrand is right. No less an authority than Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, president of the North American Butterfly Association, cites power line cuts and railroad rights-of-way as the second best place to look for butterflies (after parks and nature preserves).

"I decided to take us to a power line cut, and it was like something out of a fantasy movie. Butterflies were everywhere."

"These narrow corridors often slice through a variety of habitats and may provide an excellent habitat themselves," he writes.

That's certainly true of the CP&L transmission line cut on the north side of Raven Rock State Park, says park superintendent Paul Hart. An avid butterfly watcher for the past five years, Hart has spotted all but one of the 90 species thus far officially recorded for the park. (Harry LeGrand lists 162 butterfly species for the entire state.)

"When we do the park's butterfly count in late July, the power line cut is one of our prime areas to check," Hart says. "And when the Carolina Butterfly Society holds field trips here, they always visit the cut."

Construction worker Randy Emmitt of Rougemont, an enthusiastic follower of birds, butterflies and dragonflies, monitors not only his wildlife-friendly yard, but utility ROWs as he seeks out new species. Some of the dozens of photographs he's posted on his website were taken in power line cuts. This spring, for instance, he discovered and photographed a cobweb skipper laying her eggs in a utility right-of-way.

What makes these places so great for butterflies?

• ROWs are sunny. Because butterflies are cold-blooded, they bask in the sun to raise their body temperatures for flight.

•ROWs are usually maintained on a 2- to 3-year rotation, which keeps them in an early successional state. "We prefer they be mowed in winter," Le Grand says. "The spring after a winter mowing, butterfly populations are low. But that summer and fall, and the whole second year, are great for butterflies. By the third year, the cuts get pretty shrubby; that's not as good."

•ROWs create "edge," an ecologically-important, species-rich zone between two more-homogeneous habitats. "A power line cut is essentially a transition zone between two types of habitat," says Hart. And depending on what part of the state they're in, power line cuts "mimic" savannas, marshes, prairies, meadows, Le Grand says.

•ROWs provide for the needs of butterflies in their four life stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult (butterfly). The adult stage is relatively short (2 to 6 weeks on average); as adults, butterflies seek mates, nectar on flowering plants, and locate and lay eggs on the plants their caterpillars will eat. ROWs contain lots of grasses (a food source for the caterpillars of many species) and composites (daisies, asters, goldenrods, Joe-Pye-Weed, thistles, blazing stars) that are important nectar sources.

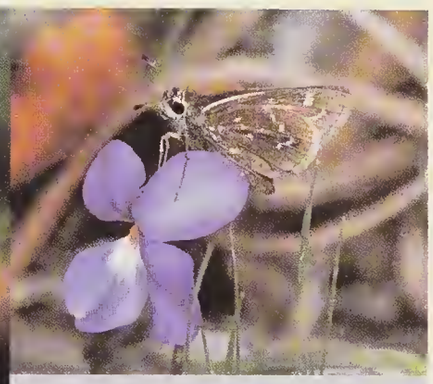
•In addition to nectar, butterflies sip mineral salts from moist earth — an activity known as "puddling." "The best rights-of-way are those with dirt roads in them, where butterflies can puddle," says LeGrand.

•Utility ROWs are preferable to roadsides because they're mowed less often, are wider, and are essentially devoid of human activity. They're better than yards because they're pesticide-free, and contain native wildflowers. Many popular garden flowers are essentially useless to butterflies.

• For some species, ROWs are better even than butterfly gardens. Some butterfly gardens provide plenty of good nectar sources but lack larval host plants. Butterflies that show up in such gardens don't stick around.

Many butterfly gardening books suggest you let a portion of your yard go wild. Maybe you should maintain it like a utility ROW. Clear it every third winter.

Elizabeth Hunter is a freelance writer in Bakersville and a member of French Broad EMC.



Left: Summer Spring Azure
Right: Cobweb Skipper
Photos by Randy Emmitt

Resources

Books:

• "Butterflies through Binoculars: The East." Jeffrey Glassberg. Oxford University Press, 1999.

• "Handbook for Butterfly Watchers." Robert Michael Pyle. Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

• "Butterfly Gardens: Luring Nature's Loveliest Pollinators to Your Yard." Alcinda Lewis, editor. Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook #143, 1997.

On-line:

www.ncsparks.net/butterfly/nbnc.html. Harry LeGrand's "Notes on the Butterflies of North Carolina." March 1999.

www.naturevision.com. Randy Emmitt's photos and information on butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and flowers.

Organizations:

Carolina Butterfly Society,
4209 Bramlet Place,
Greensboro, NC 27407.

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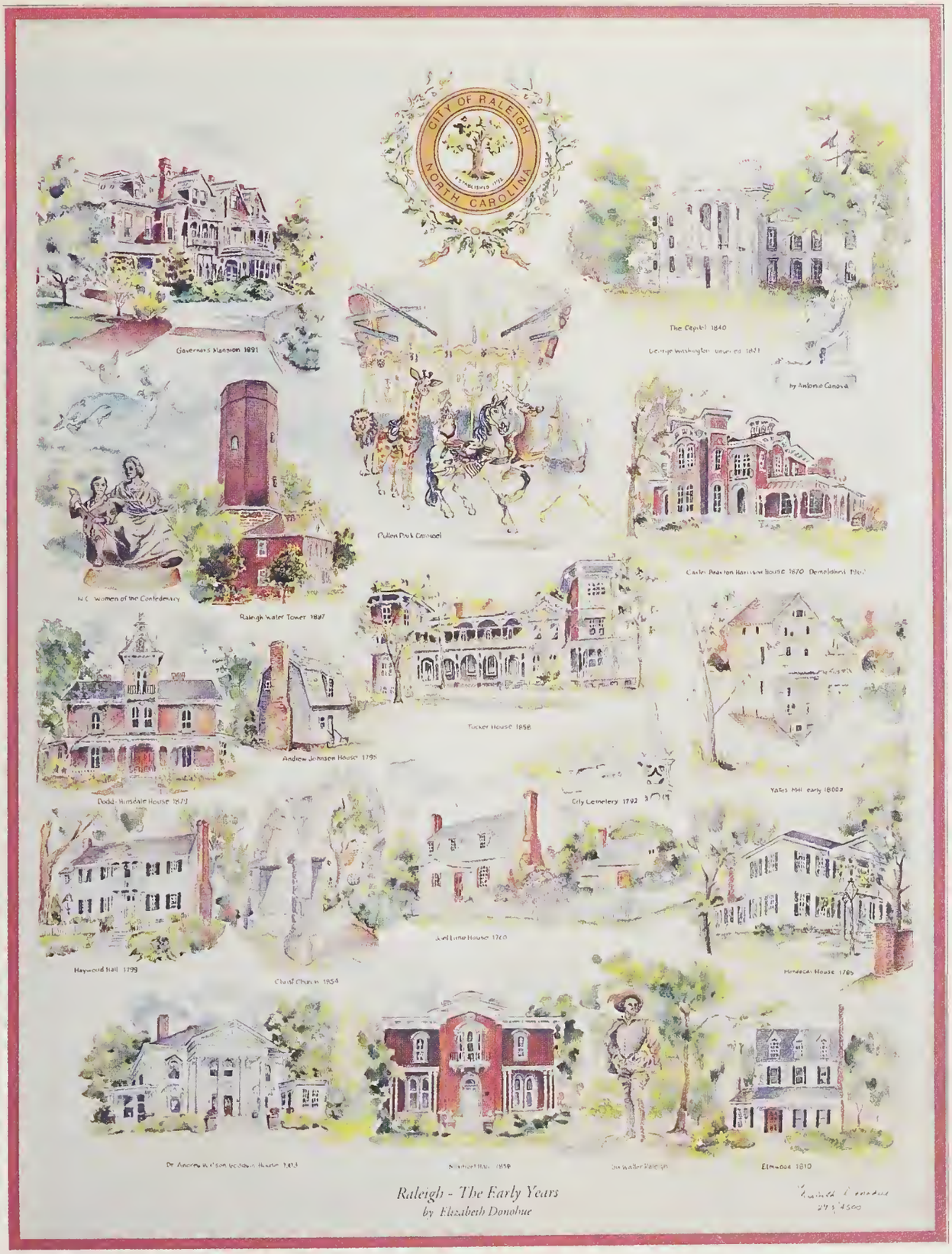


"Raleigh – The Early Years"

by Elizabeth Donohue

This new watercolor by Elizabeth Donohue depicts historic sites in and around the capital city. Among the 20 sites portrayed are the Capitol, Christ Church, Governor's Mansion, Pullen Park Carousel and the historic houses known as Joel Lane, Dodd-Hinsdale, Mordecai and Tucker.

The artist is a resident of Creedmoor in Granville County where she and her husband are members of Wake EMC.

Signed, numbered, limited edition prints measure 18 by 24 inches. They cost $60 plus $10 shipping and tax. The print is also available mounted in a gold, ornate frame, double-matted in Delph blue and Indian red, measuring 24 by 30 inches ($164.95 tax and shipping included).

Prints are sold at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, or from the Gallery at Creedmoor, 209 Main St., P.O. Box 847, Creedmoor, NC 27522. Phone: (919) 528-3867.

Compiled by Renee Gannon

Blackbeard and "Queen Anne's Revenge" will return to Ocracoke

"Queen Anne's Revenge," flagship of the pirate Blackbeard, will soon be calling Ocracoke Island home. An agreement has been reached between the Hyde County Board of Commissioners and Maritime Research, Inc. (MRI) to make Ocracoke Island the homeport for the ship's replica.

The remains of the "Queen Anne's Revenge" were located near Beaufort Inlet in November 1996. The ship sank in June 1718. The county and MRI are constructing the ship's replica. The Coast Guard Station on Ocracoke will serve as the docking station for the ship; and a Blackbeard museum and visitors center are also planned.

N. C. Cultural Resources

Because of the expected tourism impact, the North Carolina Northeast Partnership and the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce will provide resources and expertise to the project. Development and construction are slated to begin later this year.

After construction, the ship will be a working vessel capable of navigating sounds and rivers throughout the coastal region. The replica will be owned and operated by MRI.

For more information on the Blackbeard project, or to learn more about the N.C. Northeast Partnership, call (252) 482-4333 or visit the Web site www.ncnortheast.com.

Regional farmers market opens in Lumberton

On June 5, farmers in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain area welcomed a new regional farmers market from which to sell their products. Located at the intersection of I-95 and U.S. Highway 74 East outside of Lumberton, the market will house 30,000 square feet of fresh produce and retail space within three buildings. A meeting facility is scheduled for completion later this fall, and a 77-acre horse arena is also planned.

The market's location is along the beach route corridor. State officials estimate the center will eventually add $10 million a year to the regional economy. For more information about the market, call (910) 618-9091.

Museum Snapshots

Two centuries of Catawba Valley potters

Left to right: Swirl Face Jug by Charles Lisk, Three Gallon Churn by Reinhardt Bros, and One Gallon Jug by Daniel Seagle. Photo by David Ramsey.

The Lincoln County Historical Association and the Lincoln County Museum of History opened the area's largest pottery exhibit last month at the museum. The exhibit features 515 pieces from the Catawba Valley by early potters such as Daniel Seagle, James Franklin Seagle, Daniel Holly, David Hartzog, Thomas Ritchie and Nelson Bass; and contemporary potters including Burlon Craig, Charles Lisk, Kim Ellington, Steven Abee and Joe Reinhardt.

The museum also constructed the chimney of a kiln to enable visitors to experience the sights and sounds of a "kiln firing." A potter's shop has also been constructed.

The pottery exhibit is open through September 18. For more information, call (704) 748-9090 or write to the Lincoln County Historical Association/Lincoln County Museum of History, 403 East Main St., Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Mint Museum features marine paintings

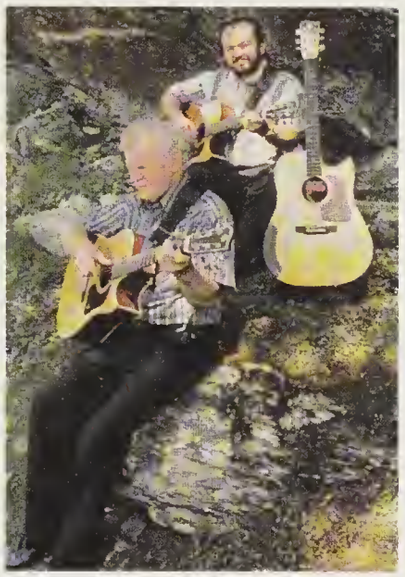
The sailing vessels of the 17th through the 19th centuries were instruments of global economy, transportation and physical power. "From Ship to Shore: Marine Paintings," a 67-piece exhibit at the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte from July 24-December 5, presents two centuries of American maritime paintings and ship portraiture.

"Chilmark," by Thomas Hart Benton

The Mint Museum of Art is located at 2730 Randolph Rd., Charlotte. Admission is $6 adults, $4 seniors and free for museum members, students and children 12 years and under. For more information, call (704) 337-2000.

Summer Festivals

Doc Watson Day is July 17



Doc and Richard Watson will perform at Doc Watson Day in Sugar Grove.

In 1998, Watauga County Commissioners, Boone Town Council, Appalachian State University and the N.C. legislature proclaimed the third Saturday in July as Doc Watson Day. This year, the second annual appreciation concert will be held July 17 on the historic Cove Creek High School grounds in Sugar Grove, just eight miles west of Boone off old US Hwy. 421.

The concert runs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and features the following lineup: Blue Ridge Express, Cove Creek Ramblers, Valerie Smith, Shorty & the Top Cats, Haven Street, Cranberry Creek, Rock Bottom, Kentucky Blue, Jimmy Trivette Band, Clint, Clarence & Garrett Howard with Dan Issacs, VW Band, Last Run, Wayne Henderson Band, and most notably, Doc & Richard Watson, Charles Welch and Friends.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Doc and Merle Watson Museum being established at the Watauga Historical Center in the Cove Creek High School building. The museum aims to honor and preserve the folklore, instruments and musical heritage of the Appalachian Mountains. The museum will also be accessible for the sight-impaired.

Advance tickets cost $10 for adults, $5 for children. At the gate, tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for children. For more information, call (828) 297-2200, or visit the Web site www.covecreek.net.

16th annual Folkmoot USA opens this month

This year's Folkmoot USA, July 12-25, features 11 premier international folk groups. Each group demonstrates their cultural heritage through colorful, authentic and original reproduction costumes, dance, and music. 155 different groups have represented more than 80 countries at the N.C. International Folk Festival.

Folkmoot USA's opening parade is Friday, July 16 at 1 p.m. on Main Street, Waynesville. Programs are held daily. The communities of Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Hendersonville, Mars Hill, Fletcher, Asheville, Franklin, Sylva, Bryson City and others offer programs. For more information on tickets and specific performances, call 1-877-FOLK-USA or visit the Web site www.folkmoot.com.

Wagon Train helps celebrate Independence Day

The town of Franklin and Macon County will feature the largest fireworks display in western North Carolina and northeast Georgia on July 3 during a daylong Independence celebration. (A Sunday noise ordinance prevents the fireworks display on July 4.) A parade at 10:30 a.m. opens the festivities, followed by a special parade of the nation's oldest wagon train – the Western North Carolina Wagon Train.

The wagon train began in 1958 to protest bad road conditions in the western area of the state, and soon became an annual tradition. More than 50 teams and wagons, along with 100 to 200 horses and riders, will travel approximately 100 miles over the region's rough mountain terrain. This year, the wagon train will parade in two towns, Franklin on July 3 and Andrews on July 4.

For more information about the Independence celebration or the wagon train, contact the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce at (800) 932-5294.

The Western North Carolina Wagon Train will parade through Franklin and Andrews this July Fourth weekend.

Carolina Music

Fantastic Shaker sings from the heart about "Home"

Former Fantastic Shakers band member Jeffrey Lynn Reid recently released his third solo CD, "Home." Born and raised in North Carolina, Reid is an EnergyUnited member and best known for writing the regional beach music hit "Myrtle Beach Days." This newest collection of songs are "personal and from the heart," said Reid.

To order "Home," or Reid's other two CDs – "Scarface" and "A Dozen, Dozen Roses," or the cassette "Coast to Coast" (featuring demos for the Fantastic Shakers), call JLR Productions at (704) 732-3643. Or write to JLR Productions, 3013 Loop Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Brunswick County singer releases debut CD

"On the Right Track," the debut CD by Gaye Varnam Fulford is a compilation of original country- and gospel-flavored songs by Fulford about the sights, sounds, people and life surrounding her hometown of Varnamtown in Brunswick County. Songs include local and often requested favorites "Lockwood Folly Fun," "River's Cry," and "If They Outlaw Country Music."

To find out how to order the CD, call (910) 842-9655 or write to Gaye Varnam Fulford at P.O. Box 30, Supply, NC 28462.

"Summer Encampment – New River"

by Raney Rogers

This new release by Ashe County artist Raney Rogers shows a section of the North Fork of New River in northwest North Carolina as it could have appeared in 1000 B.C. An Indian encampment has been found in this area.

Limited edition prints are available at a finish size of 18 by 24 inches, at a cost of $75 plus $5 to ship.

Contact Acorn Gallery, 103 Long St., West Jefferson, NC 28694. Phone: (336) 246-3388.

"Core Sound by Firelight"

by Alan Cheek

This scene by artist Alan Cheek depicts pieces that hold together life Down East in North Carolina.

That way of life will be preserved, celebrated and enriched at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, now in the early stages of construction on Harkers Island. Proceeds from selling posters and prints of Alan Cheek's image will benefit that project. Posters cost $20. Signed, numbered, limited edition prints cost $150.

Visit the gift shop on Harkers Island or the Web site at www.coresound.com.

Contact Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, 1205 Island Road, P.O. Box 556, Harkers Island, NC 28531. Phone: (252) 728-1500.

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The Fourth of July shows

_____ _____ __ _____ _____ _____

n i n l t e r c m b s s a u c c r m c

Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks.
AEFGILNORS VY means unscramble it

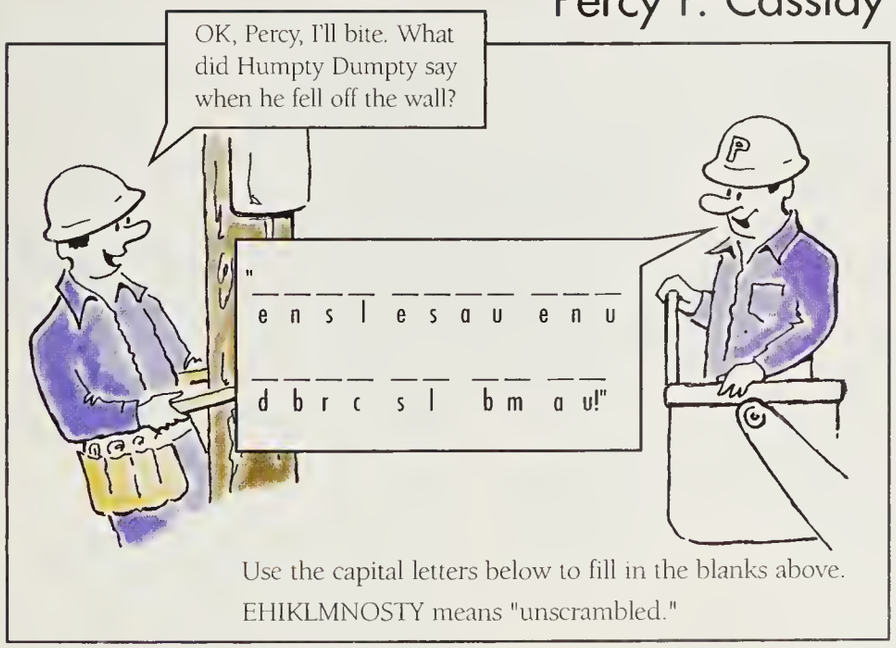
From A to C

A _____21 miles____H_____C

Asheville Hendersonville Charlotte

When A is one more than H, the difference between A^2 and H^2 is always A + H. The distance from Asheville to Hendersonville is 21 miles (A + H). The distance from Asheville to Charlotte is A^2; the distance from Hendersonville to Charlotte is H^2. How far is each town from Charlotte?

Percy P. Cassidy



Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.
EHIKLMNOSTY means "unscrambled."

Cy Nical sez:

No matter how many stones you turn, there will always be more remaining un.

When you see a florist's sign reading, "Cut Flowers" – don't.

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Sometimes 'tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have lost at all.

Southern Exposure

And I Quote: "I dealt with mentally ill people all the time in the White House."

Frank Yeager, interim Henderson County School superintendent, and former Secret Service agent

The Wright brothers' first flight at Kill Devil Hill in 1903 got scant attention in the newspapers of the day. Editors refused to believe the story of the first successful powered flight.

Ironically, one of the first reports appeared in a publication called "Gleanings in Bee Culture." The publisher happened to be an eyewitness to a flight of the Wright brothers' "Flyer II."

Answers on page 37.

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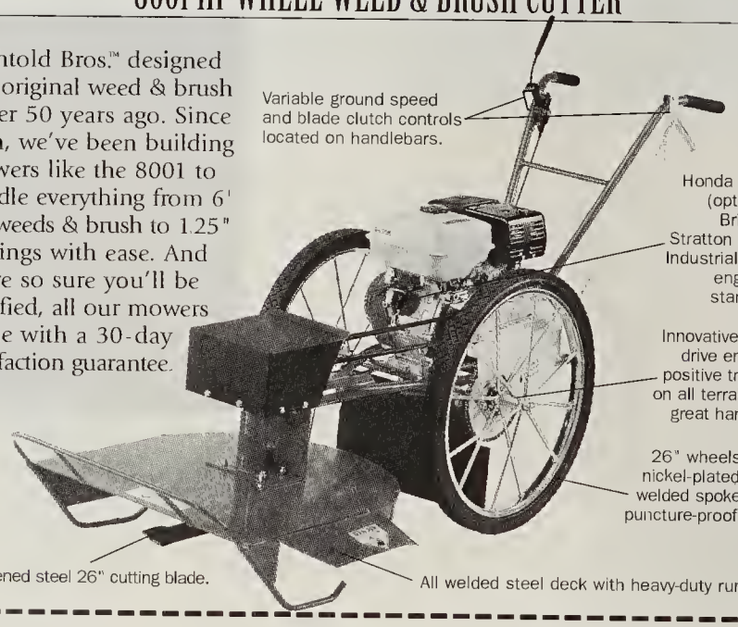

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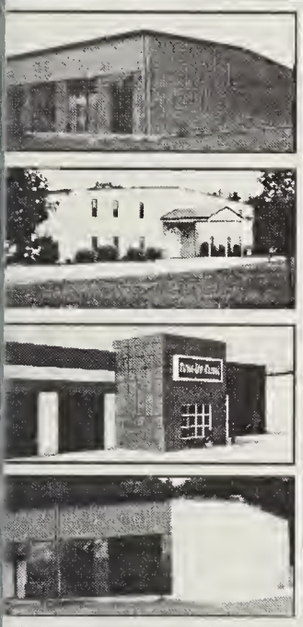

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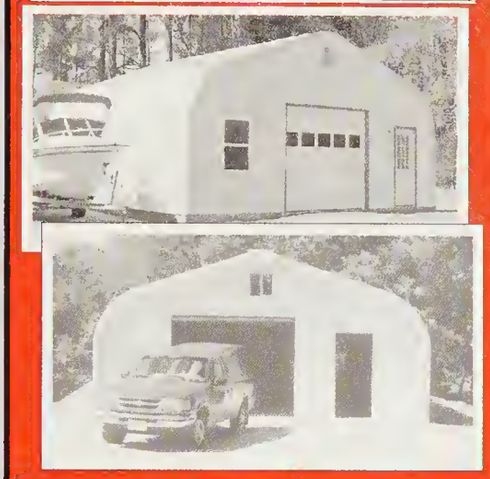

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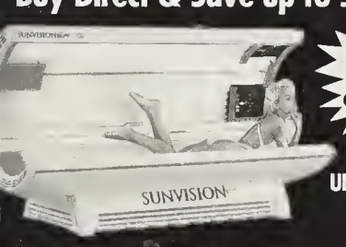

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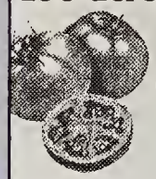

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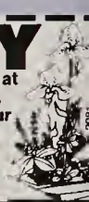

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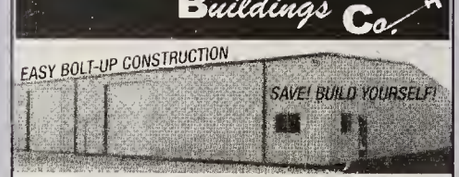

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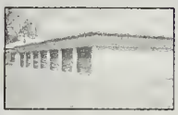

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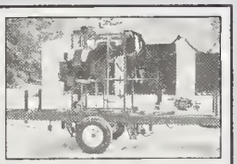

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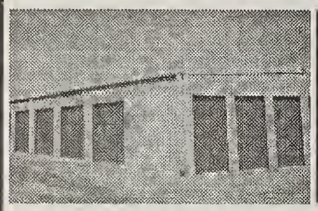

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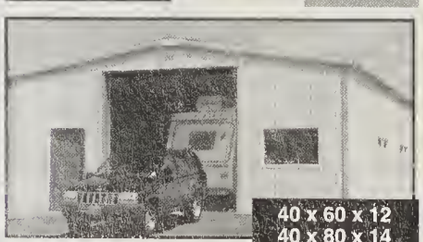

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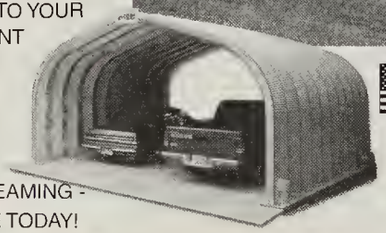

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Mountains (west of I-77)

"Cole"
Through July 11, Blowing Rock
Words and music of Cole Porter, Blowing Rock Stage Company, (828) 295-9168

Gallery Exhibit
Through July 27, Asheville
Weavings, silk screen, wood, Folk Art Center, (828) 298-7928

"Horn in the West"
Through Aug. 14, Boone
Outdoor drama, (888) 825-6747

Catawba Valley Pottery Exhibit
Through Sept. 18, Lincolnton
Lincoln Cultural Center, (704) 732-9055

Gospel Music Festival
June 30-July 5, Asheville
Primitive Quartet and Doyle Larson, Hominy Valley Music Park, (828) 667-8502

Antique Show
July 1-4, Boone
Boone Mall, (828) 264-7286

Perceptions in Clay and Fiber
July 1-Aug. 14, West Jefferson
Art exhibit, Ashe Arts Center, (336) 246-ARTS

Freedom Festival
July 2-4, Waynesville
Haywood County Fairgrounds, Free, (828) 926-0761

Pickin' in the Park
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Canton
Canton Recreation Park, (828) 648-7925

Concerts on the Lawn
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Boone
Jones House, Downtown, 5:30 p.m., Free, (800) 852-9506

Traditional Fourth of July Celebration
July 3, Boone
Colonial times, Horn in the West grounds, 5 p.m., Free, (800) 852-9506

Shindigs on the Green
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21, Asheville
Music and dance, City-County Plaza, (828) 683-1655

Fourth of July Parade
July 4, Boone
Downtown, 11 a.m., Free, (828) 262-4532

American Folk Concert
July 3, Blowing Rock
Boone United Methodist Church, 8 p.m., $10, (828) 264-8118

Fireworks
July 4, Spruce Pine and Bakersville
(800) 227-3912

Duck Derby & Sidewalk Sale
July 4, Spruce Pine
(828) 765-4051

An Appalachian Summer Festival
July 5-31, Boone
Appalachian State University campus, (828) 262-4046

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
July 8-11, Linville
(828) 733-2013

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"
July 8-26, Waynesville
Musical, Performing Arts Center at the Shelton House, (828) 456-6322

Butterfly Count
July 9, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, (704) 825-4490

Outdoor Bluegrass Gospel Concert
July 9-10, Polkville
Memorial Gospel Music Park, Free, (704) 538-9353

Butterfly Day
July 10, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, (704) 825-4490

Celtic and Classical Music Concert
July 10, Boone
Boone United Methodist Church, 8 p.m., Free, (828) 264-8118

Antiques & Collectibles Fair
July 10, Canton
At Main and Park Streets, (828) 648-7925

Learn to be a Tree Sleuth
July 10, Pisgah Forest
Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, (828) 877-4423

Full Moon Ensemble
July 10, West Jefferson
Music of Scotland, Ireland, early America, Ashe Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., (336) 246-4483

Summer Arts Festival & Concert
July 10, Waynesville
Outdoor festival, (828) 452-0593

Arts & Crafts Festival
July 10-11, Maggie Valley
Maggie Valley Community Center, Free, (828) 926-8021

Festival on the Square
July 10-11, Hayesville
Downtown, (828) 389-6814

Bogs, Bugs and Beavers
July 10-18, Pisgah Forest
Cradle of Forestry, (828) 884-5713

Highland-Cashiers Music Festival
July 10-Aug. 6, Highlands & Cashiers
(828) 526-9060

Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival
July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Waynesville
Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., (828) 452-0593

New River State Park EELE
July 14-15, Pisgah Forest
Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, (828) 877-4423

"Our Lady of Perrysburg"
July 14-25, Blowing Rock
Comedy, Blowing Rock Stage Company, (828) 295-9168

Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands
July 15-18, Asheville
Asheville Civic Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., (828) 298-7928

Alleghany County Fiddler's Convention
July 16-17, Sparta
Higgins Agricultural Fairgrounds, (336) 372-2033

Doc Watson Day
July 17, Sugar Grove
Old Cove Creek School, 1 p.m.-10 p.m., (828) 297-2200

Sylva Fire Department Centennial Celebration
July 17, Sylva
Parade & festivities, Downtown, (828) 586-1020

Miniature Horse Race
July 17, Taylorsville
Bryant Farm, 6 p.m., Free, (828) 632-3043

Pig Pickin'
July 17, Triplett
East of Boone, benefits Stewart Simmons Volunteer Fire Dept., 3-8 p.m., (828) 264-1112

Art in the Park
July 17, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-7851

Heritage Storytelling
July 17, Spruce Pine
(828) 765-7351

High Country Crank-Up
July 23-25, Boone
Engine, tractor, steam & car show, High Country Fairgrounds, 9 a.m., $3, (828) 297-4406

International Festival Day
July 24, Waynesville
With Folkmoot performers, Downtown, (828) 452-0593

Outside Gem Show
July 25-Aug. 1, Grassy Creek
Grassy Creek Fire Department, (828) 765-6171

Advanced Project WILD Workshop – Bats
July 28-29, Pisgah Forest
Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, (828) 877-4423

"Daylight Spirits"
July 28-Aug. 15, Blowing Rock
Drama, Blowing Rock Stage Company, (828) 295-9168

Mineral and Gem Festival
July 29-Aug. 1, Spruce Pine
(828) 227-3912

Mountain Dance and Folk Festival
Aug. 5-7, Asheville
Diana Wortham Theatre, (828) 683-1655

"Music Man"
Aug. 5-8, 12-15, Hayesville
Peacock Playhouse, (828) 389-8632

Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair
Aug. 6-7, Burnsville
Town square, (800) 948-1632

Piedmont (between I-77 & I-95)

Western Film Fair
Through July 3, Charlotte
Hyatt Charlotte at South Park, (704) 365-2368

Southeast Old Threshers' Reunion
Through July 4, Denton
Denton FarmPark, (336) 859-2755

Studio Glass Exhibit
Through July 4, Charlotte
Harvey K. Littleton collection, Mint Museum of Craft + Design, (704) 337-2000

"Come Forth As Gold"
Through Aug. 7, Stanfield
Drama, Reed Gold Mine, (704) 721-4653

N.C. Artists Exhibition
Through Aug. 8, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art, (919) 839-6262

Art Exhibit
Through Aug. 22, Winston-Salem
Work of Edward Hopper, Reynolda House, (336) 725-5325

Portrait Pendants Art Exhibit
Through Sept. 26, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art,
(919) 839-6262

I Love Statesville Day
July 1, Statesville
Lakewood Park, (877) 868-6877

Old-Fashioned Fourth of July
July 4, Rolesville
Rolesville Community Park,
5-11 p.m., (919) 556-5125

Market Festival
July 8, Raleigh
N.C. State Farmers Market,
(919) 733-7417

Denton Family Style Bluegrass Festival
July 8-11, Advance
Thousand Trails, Forest Lake Preserve, (828) 277-9199

Peach Day
July 10, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Cat Show
July 10-11, Greensboro
Greensboro Coliseum,
10 a.m.-4 p.m., $5 adults,
$3 seniors, $2 children,
(336) 282-3089

"An American Romantic: Horatio Parker"
July 15, Winston-Salem
Piano concert, Reynolda House,
8 p.m., $3, (336) 725-5325

Blueberry Day
July 17, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Blue Ridge Draft Horse and Mule Show
July 24, Ferrum, Va.
Blue Ridge Institue and Museum,
Ferrum College, 10 a.m.,
(540) 365-4416

Outdoor Family Concert
July 25, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, Free,
(336) 725-5325

Seulpture Demonstration
July 28, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 4 p.m., Free,
(336) 725-5325

Emerald String Quartet Concert
July 31, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 8 p.m., $8,
(336) 725-5325

Tobaeco Harvest Festival
July 31, Durham
Duke Homestead, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
(919) 477-5498

Coastal Plain (east of I-95)

Glory Days: Coastal Carolina Baseball
Through Oct. 31, Elizabeth City
Museum of the Albemarle, Free,
(252) 335-1453

Independenee Day Celebration
July 3-4, New Bern
Tryon Palace, (252) 514-4900

Our Town Celebration
July 4, Elizabeth City
Downtown and waterfront, 5 p.m.,
(252) 338-6274

Nautieal Art Show
July 5-26, Elizabeth City
Pasquotank Arts Council Gallery,
Free, (252) 338-3455

River City Ski Challenge
July 10-11, Camden
Pasquotank River, 8 a.m., Free,
(252) 338-1637

Dinner Variety Show
July 10, 24, Rose Hill
Duplin Winery, 7 p.m.,
(800) 774-9634

Summer Reader's Theatre
July 14, Elizabeth City
Waterworks Deck, 7 p.m., Free,
(252) 338-1697

Baskets of Summer
July 17, Wilmington
Poplar Grove Plantation,
(910) 686-9518

ARDC Winged Midgets Raee
July 18, Elizabeth City
Dixieland Speedway, (252) 335-7412

Fine Arts Show
July 23-25, Washington
Washington Civic Center, Free,
(252) 946-2504

Watermelon Festival
Aug. 4-7, Murfreesboro
Downtown, (252) 398-5922

Stovall Festival
Aug. 7, Stovall
Downtown, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.,
(919) 693-4310

Deadlines:
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Oct. . . . .Aug 25

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A buyer's guide
by Sharon O'Malley

Barely there

It's hard to believe that computer monitors have gone from bulky to barely there in the short time they've graced our desktops. Today's screens are slim, sleek and souped up.

1. Space saver.

Bigger isn't necessarily better when it comes to computer monitors. NEC Technologies' MultiSync LCD1500M packs a 15-inch viewing area into a body so slim—just three inches—you can hang it on the wall. It comes with two front-mounted stereo speakers—located on the monitor rather than detached. And the monitor base incorporates four ports that allow you to connect to a videoconference camera, keyboard, scanner and mouse. It weighs 11.5 pounds and costs around $999 at computer superstores. Call (800) 733-1388 if you need help finding one.

2. Small package.

Philips Electronics proves good things come in small packages with its 151AX LCD Series Monitor. It spreads 15.1 inches of viewing space on a nearly flat monitor. Its base tilts and swivels so you can plant the screen almost anywhere you want to work. The company estimates that the monitor is good for 50,000 hours—about six years of use. It costs around $899 wherever computers are sold. Call (800) 835-3506.

3. Slim line.

State-of-the-art 14-, 15- and 18.1-inch screens are available on Princeton's flat-panel DPP 500. Using digital flat panel standard technology, the ultra-slim monitor delivers a bright, sharp digital image and supports display types including direct digital, analog CRT and composite/S-video. It sells at computer stores and through the company for $799 to $1,099. Call (800) 747-6249.

4. Skinny but smart.

ViewSonic's View Panel computer monitors include a SmartPanel that assures the user a screen image that is about 25 percent brighter than other models. The flat panel display features an extended backlight life of up to 50,000 hours. Its 15-inch viewing screen and 140-degree horizontal viewing angle mean it's easy to fit in alternative workstations. You'll find it for about $1,095 at computer super stores. Call (800) 888-8583.

5. Style leader.

Your co-workers will have computer envy when they see this thin-edge package on your desktop. IBM's T55A monitor is compact and easy on the eyes. With a 15-inch viewing area, the screen features simplified on-screen displays in five languages, lockable image controls to prevent accidental changes to setup and a tilting base. The icing on the cake: It's energy-efficient. It costs around $949 at computer retailers. Call (800) 772-2227.

This guide is for informational purposes only and not intended as an endorsement by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

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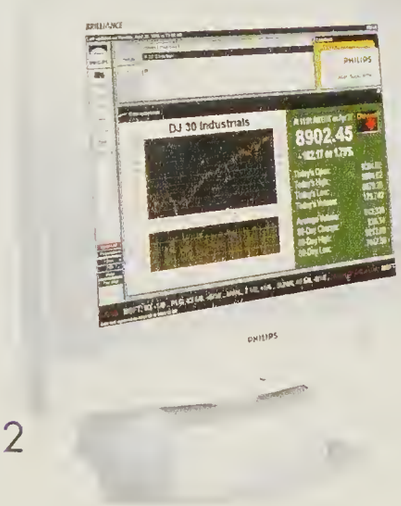

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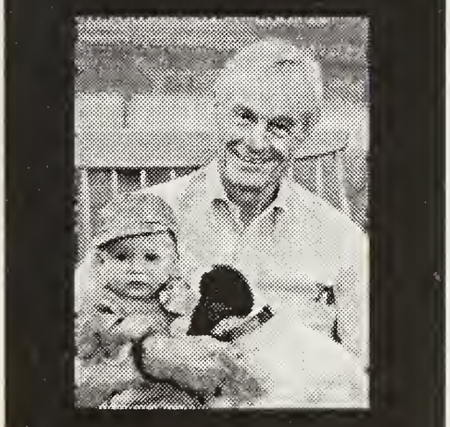

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by Hank Smith

July hints

1. Make final application of fertilizer to shrubs for this growing season.

2. Check for spider mites, especially on marigolds.

3. Spray roses every seven to 10 days to control blackspot, powdery mildew and rust.

4. Sow seeds of broccoli, lettuce, cabbage and cauliflower for fall crops.

5. Keep plants well mulched.

6. Dig and transplant Oriental poppies. Propagate by rooting cuttings.

7. Constant harvesting of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and green beans encourages production. When away, ask a neighbor to harvest and enjoy vegetables.

8. Cut spent flower heads of geraniums, zinnias, marigolds, purple cornflowers, dahlias, coreopsis, snapdragons, verbenas and petunias to encourage more blooms.

9. No need to remove spent blooms of begonias and impatiens.

10. Control garden and lawn weeds before they mature and scatter seeds later in the season.

11. If you have not already done so, cut back foliage and divide irises.

12. Cut back foliage and divide daylilies.

Roses bloom for a second time this month.

Heat and humidity often characterize July. Yet they do not mark a stalemate in garden enjoyment – or a halt to garden chores. Large panels of color dominate the scene in many gardens. Delicate growth of shrubs has matured to a proper state for rooting cuttings or layering low-growing limbs. Now's a good time to prepare soil for a fall vegetable garden to be planted next month. Garden pests and diseases abound in sultry weather. Give spraying and dusting top priority in tending gardens.

Marring by pecan aphids

If you have pecan trees shading your parking area or patio, there probably will be times when a sticky substance forms on top of the car, on patio furniture or leaves of nearby shrubs. These gluey droplets – the waste of sap sucking pecan aphids – often are carried by the wind. Dust adheres to the droplets after they settle on a surface. Spraying pecan trees with a chemical insecticide can eliminate aphids.

Cut back asters, mums

Hardy chrysanthemums and asters are sending up long stems that should be cut back to make plants low and more symmetrical. This will induce side growth, which will mature into stronger, upright stems to support masses of blooms. Keep plants watered to prevent wilting.

Look ahead to planting

Prepare soil now for fall and winter shrubbery and tree plantings, so the new areas will be ready when plants are available in nurseries. Soil will have settled, and you won't run the risk of planting hurriedly in ill-prepared soil. There's the chance that if you wait until fall, soil could be too wet or frozen to work properly for the root systems. For shrubbery borders, work up soil with a rotary tiller and remove all grass and weeds. If soil is of poor texture – too heavy a clay or too sandy – spade in a 3- to-5-inch layer of organic matter such as old sawdust, cottonseed or peanut hulls or peat moss. Now's a good time to evaluate the need for a shade tree to make certain that it is planted where it will cast desired shade or will not be located too near the house. Shade trees are very desirable on the west and south side of a building. Deciduous trees will allow sunrays to reach the building in winter.

Leaf miners

Leaf miners are moth larvae that tunnel into leaves. They attack such plants as boxwoods, hollies, azaleas and mums. Leaf damage is whitish trails or blotch "mines." Badly infested foliage appears unhealthy, turns yellow and falls from plant. Control with appropriate insecticide. Your local County Extension office can recommend insecticides and fungicides for treatment of plants.

Vegetable do's and don'ts

Keep weeds and grass under control as they compete with crops for moisture and nutrients. Some weeds are carriers of seedbourne virus diseases that damage some crops. Mulching aids in controlling weeds and conserves moisture. Don't cultivate too deeply, a couple of inches is deep enough. Most feeder roots are in the top 4 to 6 inches of soil. Deep tillage cuts them. End result is lower yields. Clean out crop residue after harvest is over, even if you don't plan to plant another crop soon. These can be sources of both insects and diseases that may attack other crops.

Crape myrtle extends color from summer to fall

Among the showiest plants, crape myrtle extends color accent from summer through autumn. As panicles of blooms fade, cut them from the plant, new flowers will follow. Brilliant leaves accent the fall landscape. Undemanding in soil type, plants perform best in full sun. Reaching 15 to 20 feet in height, crape myrtles need to be planted away from buildings. They give their best displays if grown unpruned, cutting only to remove dead wood.

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Carolina Country Classifieds
P.O. Box 27306
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Summertime Salads

Served with a roll or muffin, this cool main-dish salad makes a complete summertime meal.

Layered Chicken Salad

3 cups cubed cooked chicken, divided
2 cups torn lettuce
1 cup cooked long grain rice
1 package (10 ounces) frozen peas, thawed
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
2 large tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1 cup thinly sliced cucumber
1 small sweet red pepper, chopped
1 small green pepper, chopped

Dressing:

1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/4 cup sweet pickle relish
2 tablespoons milk
1/2 teaspoon celery seed
1/2 teaspoon dill seed
1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
Sweet red pepper rings and fresh parsley sprigs, optional

In a 3-quart glass bowl, layer 1-1/2 cups chicken and the lettuce. Combine rice, peas and parsley; spoon over lettuce. Layer with tomatoes, cucumber, peppers and remaining chicken. Combine the first 10 ingredients of the dressing, spoon over salad. Garnish with red pepper and parsley if desired. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Toss before serving. Yield: 10-12 servings.

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For more Carolina Country recipes, visit Carolina Kitchen online: www.ncemcs.com

Spinach makes a delicious summertime salad, especially with this tangy rhubarb topping.

Spinach Salad with Rhubarb Dressing

2 cups chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup vinegar
3/4 cup vegetable oil
3 tablespoons grated onion
1-1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt

Salad:

6 cups torn fresh spinach
6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
1/2 cup fresh bean sprouts
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 to 2 hard-cooked eggs, chopped

In a saucepan, combine rhubarb, sugar and vinegar; cook over medium heat until the rhubarb is tender, about 6 minutes. Drain, reserving about 6 tablespoons juice; discard pulp. Pour juice into a jar with tight-fitting lid; add oil, onion, Worcestershire sauce and salt. Shake well. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Just before serving, combine salad ingredients in a large bowl. Add the dressing and toss to coat. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

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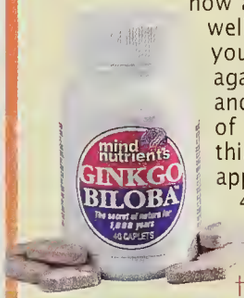

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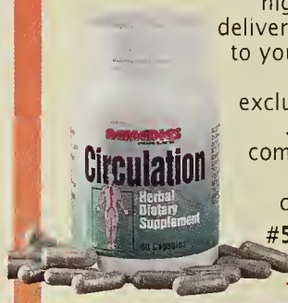

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